

# Program provides leave during medical emergencies

The voluntary leave transfer program allows employees to donate earned annual leave to other federal employees with a medical emergency, who have exhausted their own leave.

To be eligible to receive leave, the employee or employee's family member must have a medical condition that is likely to require absence from duty for a prolonged period of time and result in a substantial loss of income to the employee because of the lack of paid leave.

Family members include the employee's spouse and spouse's parents; children and children's spouses; parents; brothers and sister and their spouses; and any individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with the employee is equivalent to a family member.

Employees needing leave should complete an AD-1046, Leave Transfer Program - Recipient Application, along with medical documentation.

Those wishing to donate leave should fill out an AD-1043, Leave Transfer Program - Donor Application.

For more information contact human resources.

## Did You Know?

Stanley Mathis, a civil engineer at the Fort Smith Technical Service Center; and Fred Stringer, project coordinator at the Arkansas River Valley Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. Office, were inducted as charter

members to the Arkansas Academy of Biological and Agricultural Engineering during a ceremony Jan. 10.

They both graduated from the University of Arkansas Bio and Agricultural Engineering Department.

## COMINGS & GOINGS

Corey Farmer is the new soil conservationist at North Little Rock. He was the soil conservationist at Bentonville.

Rick Fielder, soil scientist at the state office, retired Jan. 3.

Jack Ford is the new soil conservationist in Jonesboro. He was a student trainee at Jonesboro.

Kevin Hart is the new soil conservationist at Bentonville. He was the soil conservationist at Hazen.

Steven Jacks is the new resource conservationist at Monticello. He was a soil conservationist at DeWitt.

Justin Keith is the new soil conser-

vation technician at Atkins.

Jeannie Mills is the new soil conservation technician at Wynne. She was the soil conservation technician at Marion.

Billy Morris is the new soil conservation technician at Searcy. He was the soil conservation technician at Hardin, Mont.

Jerry Oliver, construction inspector at Walnut Ridge, retired Jan. 3.

Ricky Reed is the new soil conservation technician at Marshall.

Jason Vann is the new soil conservation technician at Atkins.

Nathan Wood is the new soil conservation technician at Heber Springs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FEBRUARY
<b>Feb. 13 --</b> Central Arkansas RC&D meeting; Benton
<b>Feb. 18 --</b> President's Day
<b>Feb. 20-22 --</b> Red River Valley Association Meeting; Shreveport, La.
<b>Feb. 21 --</b> Black History Observance; Harbor Oaks, Pine Bluff
MARCH
<b>March 1 --</b> Arkansas Agriculture Day
<b>March 3-7 --</b> Southwest States RC&D Meeting; Hutchinson, Kan.
<b>March 14 --</b> Management Team Meeting
<b>March 17-19 --</b> NACD Legislative Session; Washington, D.C.
<b>March 20 --</b> Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission
APRIL
<b>April 10-11 --</b> Red River Compact Commission Meeting



Room 3416, Federal Bldg., 700 W. Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201

February 2002

# Farmer finds future in forestry

*FIP offers landowner way to leave something for his daughters*

A landowner in Columbia County has a passion for cattle farming. And, for the past 25 years he's been raising cattle on his farm in Waldo, Ark.

But, working then going home and taking care of the cattle, was becoming too time consuming. He also wanted to leave his daughters something for their future.

That's where the Forestry Incentives Program came in.

"I've always loved cattle farming," said John Rowe, who converted 85 acres of pastureland to trees in Waldo, Ark. "But I knew



Photo by Nancy Young

my daughters wouldn't want to take care of cattle. So, I decided to plant pines as a long-term investment for them."



Photo by Pat Hoeffken

John Rowe plants a loblolly pine on his 85-acre farm in Columbia County. Rowe enrolled the property in the Forestry Incentives Program and planted more than 46,000 trees.

FIP's forest maintenance and reforestation provide numerous natural resource benefits, including reduced wind and soil erosion and enhanced water quality and wildlife habitat as well as helping to ensure a reliable future supply of timber.

Rowe used program funds to perform site preparation and plant 545 loblolly pines per acre — more than 46,000 — in early 2000.

"After two growing seasons in the field, his trees are an average of five feet tall with almost perfect survival," said Bobby Cook, district conservationist at Lewisville.

"The high survival rate is due to ripping the land and spraying to kill the grass before planting," Rowe said. "I am really happy with

See Forestry, Page 2

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# Finances tight, farm policy pending

It's already February. It's hard to believe we are already well into the second quarter. I wanted to take a moment and talk about some of the issues we are facing as a state right now.

Financially, things are extremely tight for Arkansas. It doesn't look like we are going to get some of the reimbursables we had been counting on. While this is nothing new for us, we have faced deficit budgets before, each year the challenges seem to grow. This year presents some new issues however, that we have not had in the past.

First is the up-to-date reporting through the PRMS system. The first quarter results are now available. I'm impressed with your achievements in wildlife habitat management applied and CNMPs developed; and I know you are working hard in all the other areas. It is very important that you report your progress frequently and regularly.

Public access to this reporting makes a big difference in how we are perceived.

The second major issue we are facing this year is the pending farm policy legislation. With the 1996 Farm Bill provisions running out, work has begun on this new legislation.

Some reviews of the possibilities include a potential 300 percent jump in program funding for EQIP and a short timeframe to work on it.

The potential for an increased workload is something the management team has been discussing in recent meetings. We are currently developing plans to help us through such events should they occur.

We are also looking at the imminent and radical change in our workforce. In the next five years, 26 percent of our staff in the state will be eligible for retirement. We are looking at ways to protect our knowledge base and put into

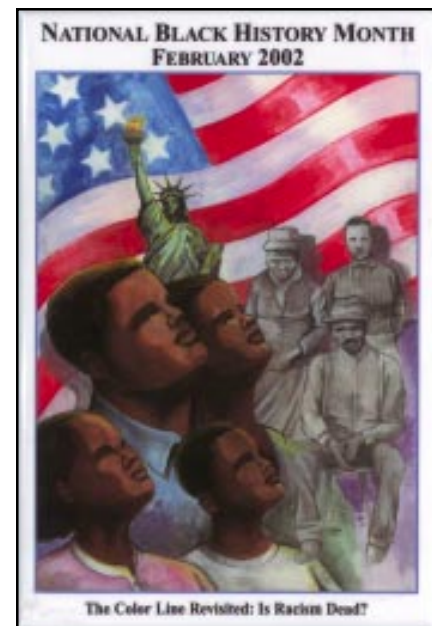
place a training and mentoring program to ease us through this transition period.

Never has the work you do - without fanfare and the glare of the media spotlight - been so important to our country.

The protection of our natural resources in times when everything from our borders to our airlines, from our energy sources to water supplies and food, can be targets for attack, it is important for us to keep working to ensure our country has the resources necessary to sustain itself. Your efforts are important - not just to the landowners you work with - but to our state and our country.



**Kalven L. Trice**  
state conservationist



## Forestry *(continued from Page 1)*

the success of the trees and the help I've received from the NRCS."

FIP is a family affair for Rowe. John's brother Jimmy and sister Kathy have also been accepted for FIP funding.

FIP is a nationwide program available in all counties in Arkansas.

Federal cost-share money is available to eligible applicants for up to 50 percent of the costs of installing approved practices.

Approval is based on certain eligibility criteria and congressional funding. There is a maximum payment limitation of \$7,500 per person per year.

FIP's cost-sharing for these measures

helps eligible private landowners, whose small parcels represent the majority of the nation's forest lands.

Jimmy planted 31 acres in pines in 2001. He planted trees along the contours of the old terraces present in the field.

Kathy plans to plant 57 acres of trees shortly.

Practices available under FIP are tree planting, improving a stand of forest trees and site preparation for natural regeneration.

"The Rowes have improved their land as well as added to wildlife habitat and increased water quality on their property," Cook said.

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### Please send submissions to:

Creston Shrum, Editor; Room 3416, Federal Bldg.; 700 W. Capitol Ave.; Little Rock, AR 72201  
Phone: (501) 301-3168; Fax: (501) 301-3189; E-mail: Creston.Shrum@ar.usda.gov

All submissions are the property of NRCS and may be edited for content or space limitations.

# Cultural History

*Archeologist examines sites around state for ancient artifacts*



Photos by Creston Shrum

(Above) John Riggs, archeologist, examines a piece of prehistoric pottery he found while surveying a Native American site on the Grand Prairie. Riggs performed 229 field checks in 2001 as part of the NRCS' cultural resources program. (Left) Sifting is one way archeologists find artifacts. During the excavation, 3 feet by 3 feet test units were dug through the plow zone into the first layer of undisturbed sub-soil and examined.



Several dart and arrow points were found at the site. Riggs said the 2-acre site in Prairie County dates from 700 to 1000 A.D.

Roy Crutchfield, a geologist, shakes the dirt through a sifter as Riggs adds another shovel full. Numerous pieces of clay pottery sherds were found. The pots were used for cooking and storing grain.



Riggs examines a dart point he estimates is more than 1,000 years old. The dart points were used on short shafts socketed into a main spear for hunting. Hunters carried several short shafts with points and one spear. The shafts were designed to release from the spear once the target was hit.